

Tri-County Beauty Pageant Winners Named



Miss - (left) - 2nd runner-up - Deanna Carnley, Enterprise; (center) Winner - Heather Mitchell, Skipperville; (right) - 1st runner-up - Staci Sullivan, Opp;



Little Miss - (left) 1st runner-up - Marci Bess, Opp; (Center) - Winner - Summer Parker, Zion Chapel; (right) - 2nd runner-up - Kynu Coleman, Elba



Tot Miss - (left) - 1st runner-up - Bethany McWaters, New Brockton; (center) - Winner - Kari Briggs, Andalusia; (right) - 2nd runner-up - Reba Savannah Reese, Florida

The 1998 Tri-County Sweetheart Pageant was sponsored by Elba Masonic Lodge # 170



Jr. Miss - (left) - 2nd runner-up - Lacy Strickland, Enterprise; (center) - Winner - Heather Danley - Jack; (right) - 1st runner-up - Laura Graham - Jack



Mini Miss - (left) - 1st runner-up - Danielle Hines, New Brockton; (center) 2nd runner-up - Lauren McClug, Andalusia; (right) - Winner - Susan Marie Keith, Opp;



Tiny Miss - (left) - Winner - Kayla LaPata, Ft. Rucker; (center) - 1st runner-up - Shelby Lolley, Enterprise; (right) 2nd runner-up - Olivia Hudson, Troy



Baby Miss - (l-r) - 1st runner-up - Makaylah Chandler, Elba; 2nd runners-up - Hannah Johnson, Enterprise, and Kendall Boswell, New Brockton; Winner - Makenzie Wambles, Jack

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More flood pictures

INSIDE
Volunteers provide aid for victims

INSIDE
EHS student named Miss Teen Wiregrass

The Elba Clipper

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Elba, Alabama

Thursday, March 12, 1998

1 Section, 12 Pages

City regrouping from flood, help promised

At press time, local government officials, federal officials, and emergency personnel were still assessing the damage caused by the flood of 1998.

The City of Elba lost all of its downtown facilities, as did many businesses located in and around the town's square.

Elba Mayor James Grimes, City Clerk Donnie Morrow, and all department heads were making plans Tuesday to relocate all city administrative offices.

According to Morrow, plans are to set up city offices (city hall) in the recreation facilities (old Army Reserve Center) located on Claxton Avenue.

All activities, including disaster relief efforts, of the city will be coordinated through the offices on Claxton Avenue. Directions to state and federal officials (ADECA, FEMA and EMA) will also be provided at these offices.

Morrow pointed out several essential bits of information that the citizens of Elba should know. They are as follows:

- Before any electrical service can be restored to a residence or business that was flooded, it will be necessary to provide the electrical department with certification that the wiring has been inspected and deemed safe by a qualified electrician.

- The water in Elba should be safe; however, residences that were flooded should exercise caution by boiling any water that will be drunk. The water in areas not flooded should be safe for drinking.

- Extreme caution should be used in traveling the streets of Elba until the extent of the damage caused by the flooding can be determined.

- Cleaning supplies, upon their



Leo Johnson and Dennis Coleman, Water Department employee and supervisor, respectively, spent a good part of the day Monday assisting in the survey of damage in the flooded downtown area.

arrival, will be made available at city hall (Rec Center on Claxton) via the American Red Cross.

Supplies began arriving Tuesday night, when a truck from Blairsville, Ga., sent contributions from residents of that area. Cleaning supplies, paper goods, diapers, food, and used clothing were among the items sent.

Damage assessment has already begun within the flood damaged areas and will become more intense in the next few days.

Alabama Gov. Fob James was in town both Sunday and Monday and

pledged state assistance. Monday, he surveyed the downtown area by helicopter, and was accompanied by Jimmy Butts, director of the state Department of Transportation; Lee Helms, director of the state Emergency Management Agency; and Jean D. Davis of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

U.S. Rep. Terry Everett also was in Elba Monday, and pledged to work for federal assistance. President Bill Clinton has designated much of Southeast Alabama a disaster area.

Both Mayor Grimes and City Clerk Morrow emphasized the fact that city officials are not only concerned with getting the municipality back into operation, but that assisting residents and businesses is of the highest priority, too.

According to Coffee County EMA Director Charles Webb, a hotline has been established for reporting residential and small business losses.

That number is 1-800-462-9029. By calling this number, individuals and businesses will be assured of being contacted by FEMA.

Residents barely escape rising flood waters

Marsh climbed to safety on roof of Vaughan home

When Beaver Dam Creek broke through the levee and flooded downtown Elba Sunday morning, several people were trapped and had to be rescued by large trucks or boats.

Sian Marsh tells a scary story of what happened after his vehicle stalled Sunday morning in the onrushing flood waters. When he and his wife were leaving his downtown office with cars loaded with insurance records, they unknowingly drove right into the rush of flood waters.

He tells of wading back to the house of the late Mrs. Oscar Vaughan Sr., getting on the porch and breaking a window to get inside, thinking he was entering a two story house. Somewhere in the ordeal he was joined by two women - he thinks they were from Montgomery. They begged him not to break the window, saying, "Surely mister, the police will put us all in jail."

Finding there was no second story, he and the two women went

back into the water, and put a stool on top of a table, in a successful effort to get on top of the house. Marsh said he had staked out a tree for himself if this failed, but didn't think the women could ever get up there. The women pushed him up on the rooftop and he in turn pulled them onto the roof. The three of them stayed there until rescuers came by on boats to take them out to safety. One of the women somehow suffered a severe cut on her foot as she was getting off the rooftop.

Marsh said the people in the first boat which passed waved at them, which was fine, because they were reasonably safe and could hear people in several directions crying out for help. The second boat to come by rescued them. He was apologetic in saying he can't even remember who got them out.

Adding to his worries was the unknown status of his wife, Deloris, who started driving out just ahead of him, but by a slightly different route. After getting on top of the house, he could see her car stalled a couple of blocks away, but

Continued on Page 3

Flood claims 2 lives

Rising flood waters claimed the lives of two young Elba citizens early Sunday morning.

Tanya Tyson was driving with her mother, brother, and two small children to check on a cousin. As they drove over the levee toward the bypass on Taylor Mill Road, their car was swept off the road and was quickly submerged.

"We topped the hill and it was too late," Tyson said. "The current took the car."

Members of the community who heard the family shouting for help pulled three of them from the car. Edward Horstead, who was Tyson's 17-year-old brother, drowned. So did Tyson's daughter, 4-year-old Marquindale Thigpen. Lillian Horstead is Tyson's mother.

"I was in the car and the water was up to here," she said, holding a finger under her chin. "I didn't know what to think."

Horstead doesn't swim. "No, Lord," she said. "I wouldn't have been so scared if I could swim."

She said she never worried that the rescuers wouldn't pull her out. "I was hollering too much for them to leave me," she said. "One of the boys from the neighborhood saved me," she said, indicating 16-year-old Shunta Sams.

Sams said he didn't stop to think when he heard the victims shouting for help.



Tanya Tyson gives an unidentified child a bottle at the Red Cross shelter. Tucker and her son, left, were rescued from a submerged car.

around the waist and pulled her free. His sister, Kecia Sams, and Eddie Tyson and "Big Daddy" Tyson, also helped rescue the three survivors.

At that time, the water, which Sams described as "over my head," was almost covering the car.

"The current was running past fast," Sams said. After being pulled free, Horstead went back to her mobile home, to get dry clothes.

"It was cold," she said, adding that neither her home nor her daughter's flooded, although they

Flood waters ravage downtown Elba area for third time in 69 years

Not again!

Many Elba residents who survived the 1990 flood thought it was a once-in-a-lifetime thing. They were wrong.

Sunday morning, March 8, 1998, was another of those infamous days of which continue to haunt Elba. The levee broke shortly after nine a.m. and flooded downtown Elba with as much as six feet of water. This time the

Following the 1929 flood, this creek was rerouted around the then-populated area of town and the levee constructed. Sunday morning, the surging waters tore through the obstructing barrier, possibly looking for its old home bed. It is a fact that the creek ripped out two large holes in the levee right where the creek was turned sharply to the right and around Elba water. This time the

Three times, downtown Elba has been flooded, and each time it was in March. The dates were:

- March 15, 1929
- March 17, 1990
- March 8, 1998

It is just off Hickman Avenue, to the right past Dorsey Trailers. Beaver Dam Creek.

Continued on Page 5



This photo shows the two places at which the levee was broken by the swollen waters of Beaver Dam Creek west of Elba on Sunday morning.

Temporary headquarters established

A number of organizations were in the process of setting up in temporary locations when The Elba Clipper went to press early Wednesday morning.

CITY SERVICES

- City Hall - Recreation Center (old Army Reserve) on Claxton Avenue.
- Elba Police Department - Elba Airport.

POST OFFICE

- The Elba Post Office will open in Dr. Williams' old office located on Drayton St. just off Highland Drive

BANKS

- The Peoples Bank is locating in temporary facilities next to Jim Cook Ford on U. S. Hwy. 84W;
- SouthTrust Bank is locating in temporary facilities in parking lot of present facility.

RELIEF SERVICES

- FEMA Toll Free Number 1-800-462-9029;
- Red Cross is headquartered at Elba Assembly of God Church on Highland Drive with roving units. The Red Cross also is operating a shelter in Elba Elementary School, and has provided meals from Hayes Funeral Home.

- The Salvation Army is located at the Elba Recreation Center on Claxton Avenue and in the old Windham Power Lifts site on Hickman Avenue.

- LP Gas Relief Van located on Smith Avenue at AL Hwy. 125 and AL Hwy. 203.

BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

It has happened! Thinking it was impossible for Elba to be hit by another major flood this soon after the 1990 disaster, we were shocked almost beyond belief Sunday morning that while watching Whitewater Creek & Pea River, Beaver Dam Creek roared in from the backside and flooded downtown Elba again. It broke in almost exactly at the original creek bed taken away when the canal was dug and the levee originally constructed, following the 1929 flood. It was already a given that Riverview, parts of Brookdale and much of Mulberry Heights were going under water, but the downtown flooding caught us and the rest of Elba by utter surprise.

Tragically there were also two deaths in Elba, both from flash flooding before the levee break.

As is obvious by now, this newspaper has again risen above the adversity. This time every piece of computer equipment was lost to the flood waters and in just days a cooperative effort has recreated the electronic marvel which generates today's newspapers, pulling bits and pieces of equipment from every nook and cranny.

We had countless offers of help, both brain and brain, as it became obvious the flood waters had again taken everything. Word has reached us of many more who wanted to give offers of help, but could not make personal contact. On the technical side our loyal staff had to have outside help. The load fell on our regular computer supplier, Graphcom, a Columbus, GA, computer firm which specializes in Macintosh computers; and our darling daughter, Michele, who has literally moved in with us, has written some stories, made some pictures and taken charge of the new computers, the four "loners" from friends and a million other things which needed doing. She told the computer guys what was needed, even before getting to Elba and we have jokingly said she spent \$20-\$30,000 of our money like it was chicken feed. (Actually, we have no clue what the cost of all the new stuff will be once the invoice is typed out.) Rick and Larry, the Graphcom guys, scoured the Southeast to find the many pieces of technical computer components we had to have, drove hundreds of miles and stayed long past their legal (or moral) obligation to any customer. They even said "We will all worry about the money later!" This combination of professionals can obviously master any computer problem.

It is humbling to realize how many good people there are in this world and that so many of them are right here around Elba, AL this week. That list is too long to ever be completed in one writing, a dozen writings or even by any one person. Any list we personally make will always include Charles Walker. He waded in with our son Chris and yours truly Sunday morning, with the water rising, and carried out a box of vital accounting records. That is one of those above-and-beyond-the-call-of-duty acts which humble us so much.

Any parent is proud of his or her children, but Hedly and I have three who tried (successfully) this week to show a supreme respect for mom and dad. Chris waded in with his carefree dad in that dangerous Sunday morning situation, Eric waded in with me Monday, in awfully cold water, to get much needed things for this week's paper... some did stay above the waterline this time. Both boys are wringing their hands right now wanting to do more. Then of course there is Michele, who put her University of Alabama schooling and 11 years of journalism experience to full use getting out the paper. She knows what needs doing, and often has it done before most of us even realize the need.

Our plans are to hang around somewhere until the building dries out. We have already contacted our 1990 remodeling contractor and got on his list to fix our building. Folks, we prayerfully promise to be here with you as long as God stays with us.

Here we go again ...

by Marvin McIlwain, Editor

This reporter is becoming all too familiar with floods.

In 1975, areas outside the levee protecting the downtown area of Elba were flooded by the Pea River and Whitewater Creek.

The areas suffering the most damage in that high water were Smith Avenue and Riverview Subdivision located in the northeast part of Elba.

Then, in 1990, the 18-plus inches of rainfall north of Elba caused the mighty Pea River and Whitewater to once again go on a rampage.

As the flood waters made their way toward Elba, Whitewater Creek became a river and breached the levee, allowing the flood waters to flow inside the levee, flooding downtown Elba for the first time since the '29 flood.

The '90 flood caused total devastation to the downtown area as well as the outlying residential sections of town on both sides of the Pea River.

In 1994, the southwest portion of Elba (Newtown and Putnam Street) was flooded due to local rainfall and drainage back-up.

A new pumping station was installed (installation finished just a few weeks ago) as a measure to prevent this happening in the future. It happened again!

The flood of 1998 not only saw the Pea River and Whitewater Creek surpass flood stage but also Beaver Dam Creek joined the "party."

In past floods, Beaver Dam has risen but not nearly to the degree that it did on Sunday.

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AREA DEATHS

JOHN EDWARD JERNIGAN
John Edward Jernigan, age 73, of Arab, died March 5, 1998.

Funeral services were held March 8, 1998, at 2 p.m. at Hayes Funeral Home Chapel, with burial in Evergreen Cemetery of Elba, with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Mr. Jernigan was a native of Coffee County and Elba.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law: Edward Martin and Leann Jernigan, Arab; a daughter and son-in-law: Melanie and John Alvin Parlier, Arab; two step-sons: Charles Allen Sheppard and Vernon Sheppard; a step-daughter: Sylvia Elaine Orgiesen; two brothers: Oliver Jernigan Jr., Tampa, Fla.; Robert "Bobby" Jernigan, Birmingham; two sisters: Payne Harzard, Tampa, Fla.; and Julia Greer, Maitland, Fla.; a granddaughter: Crystal Jeanette Parlier; five grandsons: Martin J. Parlier, Steven J. Parlier, Oliver Parlier, Joseph A. Sheppard, Jon A. Sheppard.

HUBERT WISE

Mr. Hubert Wise, age 74, of Smiths, Ala., died March 5, 1998, at his residence.

Funeral services were held March 7, 1998, at 3 p.m. at Victoria Baptist Church, with Rev. Buddy Hood officiating.

Burial was in Victoria Baptist Church Cemetery, with Colonial Funeral Home of Phenix City, Ala., directing.

Mr. Wise was a self-employed floor finisher for many years. He served in the U.S. navy during World War II and was a member of Victoria Baptist Church.

Survivors include a daughter: Linda Wise Holley, Smiths, Ala.; a son: David H. Wise, Columbus, Ga.; two brothers: Cubie Wise, Jay, Fla.; James H. Wise, Phenix City; three sisters: Ellawayne Head, Victoria; Mary N. Herrington, Phenix City; and Nancy Pauline Damico, Georgetown, Ga.; five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

MARCH FOURTH MCGOWAN

Mr. March Fourth McGowan, of New Brockton, died March 1, 1998, at Medical Center Enterprise, being almost 108 years of age. He was born March 4, 1890, at New Brockton the late Jordan and Annis Smith McGowan, former slaves who moved from Geneva County to help settle the town of New Brockton in the 1870s. He lived most of his life in Coffee County.

Funeral services were held March 7, 1998, at Poplar Springs Baptist Church, New Brockton, with Rev. L.C. McMillan, pastor, of Bethel Baptist Church bringing the invocation; Rev. Mike Medley, pastor of Wooden Chapel Assembly of God Church, reading Old Testament Scripture; Rev. Murray Powell, pastor, Springfield Baptist Church reading New Testament Scripture; and Rev. Dr. J.L. Gray, pastor, Poplar Springs Baptist Church, bringing the eulogy. A special tribute was paid by Mr. Chester Higgins, photographer from "New York Times" newspaper.

"Uncle Fourtie," as he was affectionately called by those who knew him, received most of his education from the segregated black schools.

Under adverse conditions and with very little time, numerous lives were saved; however, the two lives that were lost were far too many.

Emergency personnel - one and all - have done, and are continuing to do, an outstanding job of protecting life and property in Elba.

Bulletin Board

S.S. REP. - Courthouse, 4th Tues. 12:30-1:30. Call FREE 1-800-772-1113.
ROTARY CLUB - Tuesday @ Noon - First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.
ELBA MINISTERS ASSN. - Tues. - 8:20 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

ELBA CITY COUNCIL - 2nd & 4th Monday - 6:00 p.m. City Hall.
WATER & ELECTRIC - Tuesday following 2nd Monday - 6:00 p.m. City Hall.

COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION - 2nd & 4th Monday of each month - Community Room in Farm Center Complex @ New Brockton.

LIONS CLUB - 2nd & 4th Tues. - 6:30 p.m. Senior Citizens Center.
ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD - 1st Thurs. - 5:30 p.m. - Supp. Office.

AMERICAN LEGION - 1st Thurs. - 7:30 p.m. - Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.
RESCUE SQUAD - 2nd & 4th Tues. - 7:00 p.m. - Rescue Squad Building.

MASONIC LODGE 170 1st & 3rd Monday of each month - 7:15 p.m.
BAND BOOSTERS 1st Mon. - 7 p.m. - Band Room, Elba High School.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER Mon-Fri - 8-12 noon & 12:30-4:30. New Brockton @ Farm Center Complex 894-5853.

COFFEE COUNTY CO-OPERATORS ASSN. - 3rd Sat. - 3 p.m. - Club House.
COFFEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN 3rd Wed. Noon - Colony Inn Enterprise.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY 1st Tuesday 12 Noon - City Hall Conference Room.
AARP Meeting 3rd Tuesday night of the month - Elba Airport Deisel hangar.

This space made possible by National Security Insurance Co.

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Chandler's Furniture

THE ELBA CLIPPER MARCH 12, 1998

PAGE 3



These three mobile homes were swept off their foundations by flood waters Sunday. The homes were in the immediate path of Beaver Dam Creek as it broke through the levee.



Eddie Kelley of Kelley Foods, right, delivers donated supplies to the Red Cross shelter set up in the Elba Elementary School. As many as 200 people found refuge from the storm when flood waters were at their highest.

Escapes

Continued from Page 1

There was no sign of Deloris. She had waded out, and for the next two hours was worried because of no news of what had happened to her husband.

Tuesday, after they towed the cars to their Troy Highway home (and temporary office), both were still visibly shaken from the ordeal.

"The water was trapping me in."

That's how wheelchair-bound Robert Paul Johnson described the situation in which he found himself before he was rescued by four members of the National Guard.

Johnson lives alone at 608 Jackson Avenue. He's not sure how the National Guard knew to come and get him.

"I had called my friend," Johnson said. "I guess she called the police and they sent the boys over there to get me."

"I didn't know anybody was coming to get me," he said. "The

water was just boiling out there.

"Finally, I heard somebody blowing" and I knew somebody had let them know."

Johnson's house also flooded in 1990.

"But I didn't even get wet to get out," he said. "I still drove then. The Elba patrol came through with a loudspeaker hollering for everybody to get out. We had time to walk away from down there then."

After being rescued by the members of the Guard, Johnson was taken to the Red Cross shelter in Elba Elementary School.

"They've been mighty nice," he said. "Mighty nice."

While the national media reported that residents had to be rescued by helicopter, Elba Mayor James Grimes said he knew of no helicopter rescues.

"The police chief and the assistant chief had to be rescued by the National Guard, but I don't know of any helicopter rescues," he said.

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Ronnie Young, Agent
Southeast Insurance Agency

STATE FARM UPDATE: How To Report Your Claim

If you're a State Farm Policyholder and your home or car was damaged in the recent flood, please report that damage as soon as possible. Contact your State Farm agent now for instructions on filing your claim. Along with State Farm agents, we have additional claim representatives in the area to help policyholders needing assistance during this difficult time. State Farm wants you to know every claim is important, and by contacting us now, you will help begin the claim process.

Our Elba office is open at 307 Adkinson Drive

Kenneth Calhoun,
Agent
Phone - 897-3428

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Floods

Continued from Page 1

The rains had fallen all night at a steady, but not torrid, pace. City crews had been up all night watching the situation. About 2 a.m. the newly installed pumps were started to expel rain which had fallen within the watershed which feeds directly into the part of Elba behind the levee. Workmen were worried for a while because these pumps seemed to be losing the battle with the influx of water. Before daylight, water had already gotten into the law offices G. A. Lindsey built to replace the his office which washed down the river in the flood of 1990.

However, shortly after daylight, workmen began to see some results and water which filled the downtown streets began to drain off toward the low area between Putman and the levee where the pumps were installed. That hope that maybe some relief was coming didn't last long, as the levee break on the west side of town poured countless gallons of water into town in a matter of minutes.

Many people were trapped in the onslaught, and dozens of automobiles were unable to be driven out because they stalled in the rising water. This included a couple of police vehicles, a bus, the fire chief's car, an ambulance and an 18-wheeler. The driver of the 18 wheeler, Johnny Manning, stopped to assist the stalled ambulance, which was trying to transfer a patient from Elba General Hospital to an Enterprise hospital. Ironically, Manning was attempting to haul furniture removed from two homes when his vehicle was caught in the rising waters.

Officials were keeping a close check on Pea River, which had already been predicted to peak higher than it did in 1990 and higher than the Elba levee. Many of those caught in town when the levee broke were also watching this and felt they had a reasonable amount of time to salvage their possessions.

When the onslaught was over and Beaver Dam back in its banks rolling calmly to the ocean, downtown Elba had five or six feet of water sitting in homes and businesses, and rescue workers were motoring up and down the streets in boats plucking stranded people from atop cars, houses and anything else one could find which was higher than the rising water level.

That was early Sunday afternoon, but it took the water until Wednesday to get out of all the homes and businesses. The draining was delayed, or reduced to the work of the two flood pumps, because of the continuing rise of Pea River and Whitewater Creek, as water from these watersheds rushed to Elba, en route to the Gulf of Mexico. The levee is equipped with flap gates which close as the river rises against them. They use the pressure of the river water itself to keep them tightly closed. These gates stay closed until the river level drops below them. That is when they resume serving as the normal drains for rainwater within the town proper.

The river crested in Elba on Monday and began a slow drop back to its normal flow. A slight rise in the river stage gave a small scare to some and the rumor of this "bump" continued to circulate Tuesday afternoon, long after the trend had turned back downward.

Five or six homes in Brookdale suffered flood damage, some more extensive than others. All of the Brookdale subdivision, south of town, is outside the levee. Some of the Brookdale flash flooding comes from Two Mile Creek, which makes up the Southern border of the subdivision. Riverview subdivision, east of town and on the banks of the Pea River, is also outside the levee. Riverview homes get pounded every time there is high water. Smith Avenue comes out of downtown



The fire chief's car was submerged in the flood waters just behind the Elba Public Library. Fire Chief Lloyd Driggers abandoned the car and caught a ride out in a large truck.

with Whitewater to its west and the Pea River to the east. Thus many homes on this street share the pounding of Riverview homes.

A section of homes right outside the levee on the west of town and adjoining (or are a part of) Mulberry Heights also get water regularly. Theirs usually comes with little warning from the flash flooding caused by the major culprit of this disaster, Beaver Dam Creek. Volunteers were working feverishly Sunday morning to remove the household goods of those in the most immediate danger of getting hit by the rising water. City hall workers were phoning for additional trucks and personnel to get the belongings out as fast as possible. They were dividing those which did arrive, to insure all sections of town got an equal share of help.

That unannounced surge of water is also responsible for the drowning

deaths of the teenager boy and 4-year-old girl, both trapped in a vehicle. The car's driver, Tanya Tyson, explained she "topped the hill" ... actually the levee crossing on Taylor Mill Road ... and was in the water before she saw it. That fast rushing water, "a wall" one witness said, grabbed the small car and pushed it into the ditch. Only quick, risky efforts by bystanders saved the other three occupants of the car.

The local chapter of Red Cross had already set up two aid shelters before daylight, when it became apparent from National Weather Service and local authorities that there would be some displacement of people by the heavy rains. They initially set up at the First Assembly of God on Highland Ave and at the Elba Elementary School. Both sites were later consolidated at the school and it was still in operation at press time Tuesday night.

COFFEE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND MEDICAL SUPPLY
515 N. Claxton Ave. Elba, AL 36323
897-8009 800-961-3352
Emergency and Non-Emergency
Pre-Hospital Care and Transport
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ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT PARAMEDIC ON DUTY

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.



Coffee County Arts Alliance presents

The Duttons

this Saturday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.
in Enterprise High School auditorium

Known for their unique blend of contemporary, country, blues, folk, classical and traditional Bluegrass, the Duttons have earned praise all over the United States, Canada and Europe

For tickets, call 347-4422

IN TOUGH TIMES, YOU CAN COUNT ON US!

Like many of our customers, we have
been misplaced by the Flood of '98.

But our doors are open to serve you!

We are set up in a trailer beside Cook
Ford on Hwy. 84 W. in Elba, and will
be open today (Thursday).

Our branch in New Brockton is now
serving Elba customers.

Limited service available
at Troy Bank and Trust.

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SPORTS

Views from

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz

We got back into our house early Tuesday morning after being forced out Sunday by the rapidly rising water, and while many of our personal items were lost forever, we did manage to save a few things, and this time the Titanic didn't sink! We had bought Melissa the Titanic soundtrack for her birthday on Saturday, and when we got back into the yard Tuesday morning we found the CD floating in the road in front of the house. We cleaned the CD, dried it off, and it worked just like before. Hey, I guess if the Titanic can survive the Flood of '98, we all can!

SORTING THROUGH THE NOTE PAD...

*** The Elba Tiger baseball team really opened its season in impressive fashion last week by sweeping a double-header from Charles Henderson, of Troy. The SA Trojans have been a power in high school baseball for many years, and most thought it would be a very tough opener for the Tigers. However, Elba jumped on the Trojans early and cruised to a win in the opener, then grabbed a big lead and let everyone in on the fun in the nightcap to complete the sweep. The big wins should give the Tigers a spark as they head into the season.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers opened the softball season with a big double-header sweep past Zion Chapel, and scored a total of 38 runs in only eight innings of work to take the twin killing. The Lady Tigers did make some errors, and was to be expected in their opening day of action. However, they played well enough to win and at the same time should have seen that they will have to play well to win, no matter the competition. Elba's girls have a lot of talent, and should get better and better as the season rolls along.

*** Elba's youth All-Star teams competed last weekend at the various Alabama Recreation and Parks Association basketball tournaments and took it on the chin as all four teams failed to post a win. The "12 and Under" teams were handicapped due to the fact that many of the better players in that age group were ineligible due to playing on school teams, and it showed as the very young All-Star teams suffered lopsided defeats. The "10 and Under" teams also failed to get a win, but both teams played well and had chances to win their games. It's more fun to win than lose; however, all the teams learned a lot by playing in the All-Star games and may be next year the players will work harder than ever to prove that they can win in the tournaments.

*** I talked with Ronald McKinnon last week and he stated that while he was hoping to work out a new contract with the Arizona Cardinals, he might play out the '98 season as a restricted free-agent and then test the waters in the NFL as an un-restricted free agent. McKinnon, who started all sixteen games this season at linebacker with the Cardinals, admitted that it was hard to lose, but sounded determined to do his best to make certain that more wins were on the way. When asked if he would rather play inside or outside linebacker, McKinnon said "It doesn't matter where I play as long as it is on the field!"

By the way, McKinnon will graduate from the University of North Alabama this spring, and before hanging up said that he while he was a pro football player, he was still a pro football player from a small college, and had to prove himself each and every day. We know that Ronald has been proving himself for years, and that he will continue to prove that is indeed one of the best football players, ever, at any level!

*** Youth baseball and softball registration is underway in Elba, and I urge all parents to encourage their children to participate in one of the many various leagues offered by the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation. There are leagues for both boys and girls ages four through eighteen, and being a part of a team is part of growing up. Don't make your children play, but encourage them to do so and at least give it a chance.

Gamecocks down Rebels

The New Brockton Gamecocks and Zion Chapel Rebels opened their high school baseball seasons last week, and it turned out to be all Gamecocks, as New Brockton scored early and often to dismantle the Rebels 20-0, in Elba.

Jason Caradine pitched three innings of no-hit ball and struck out six batters to lead the Gamecocks, while Jason McKenzie mopped up the win as he pitched two innings, allowed two hits and struck out two batters. Joseph Sanders took the mound

for the Rebels as he pitched 3 2/3 innings and allowed 11 runs on nine hits and walked nine batters. Marcus Taylor also went to the mound in the loss and allowed nine runs on four hits and walked four batters.

The Gamecocks took command early on a two-run single by Pate out six batters to lead the Gamecocks, while Jason McKenzie mopped up the win as he pitched two innings, allowed two hits and struck out two batters. Joseph Sanders took the mound



Elba Lady Tigers opened their season with a win

Lady Tigers win double header

The Elba Lady Tigers opened the 1998 high school softball season last week by claiming a double-header sweep over the Zion Chapel Lady Rebels 20-0 and 18-7, at Elba.

The Lady Tigers pounded out 19 hits and scored in every inning to roll to a 20-0 win in the opener, stopped in the fifth inning by the ten-run rule.

Elba ripped out nine hits in the bottom of the first to grab a quick 8-0 lead and coasted in with the win. Bonnie Vaughan got 4 hits to lead Elba, while Amber Frederick added 3 hits, including two triples and a double. Getting two hits were Kendra Vaughan, Melissa Grantham, Vaughan Boyd, Lindsey Jared and Raeann McCollough. Melissa Mularz got the win by



The Elba Tigers trounced Troy in their opener

Tigers defeat Troy

The Elba Tigers opened the 1998 high school baseball season with a bang last week by sweeping a double-header from the Charles Henderson Trojans 10-0 and 15-11, in Elba.

The Tigers rode the strong right arm of sophomore pitcher Brooks Creel in the opener to roll to the lopsided 10-0 victory. Creel tossed a two-hitter and struck out four batters to lead the Tigers to the win, while Eric Jordan ripped a three-run home-run to spark Elba at the plate. The Tigers pounded out 15 hits

and turned back a late Charles Henderson rally in the nightcap to post a 15-11 win and complete the sweep of the SA Trojans. Josh Dawkins walked three batters and was tagged for 13 hits in the game, but turned in a complete game performance to get the mound win. Seniors Derek Marler and Ronnie Davis both got 3 hits, hit home-runs and knocked in four runs apiece to lead Elba at the plate, while Kevin Dodd and Eric Jordan both collected two RBIs.

"BEWARE"

The Termite Swarming Season Is Here!

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Call TOLL FREE 1-800-239-8023
KERSEYS TERMITE & PEST CONTROL
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OPEN MON - FRI 8-5 - SAT. - 7-12



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Garden Gate Bldg.
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H&R BLOCK**

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And dry refrigerators
and ranges, too**

**And our other stores can
supply us with ALL your
household needs.**

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Where "We sell Quality for less"
839 N. Troy Hwy., Elba - 897-2116

WE ARE OPEN!

**And we're ready to
help our customers
recover from the
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**Windham
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Troy Hwy. - Elba - 897-6503

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Elba.

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FLORIST**

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This sign cautions motorists to drive slowly and watch for playing children. However, this week, children would have needed water toys to navigate Rebecca Lane.

Schools out for rest of week

Charles Pearce, superintendent of Elba City Schools, stated that tentatively, Elba schools will reopen on Monday, March 16.

Pearce said, "This opening date depends on the ability of the schools' buses to safely run their routes. Should this change, the public will be advised via the media."



Swollen waters submerged Smith Avenue



JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST

Our deli is now open
from 6 a.m. until 8 a.m.,

We've also extended our store
hours until midnight
until further notice
to assist victims
of the 1998 flood

Big/Little Store

Hwy. 84 West

WE ARE OPEN.

If you can get to us -
WE CAN SERVE YOU!

GRANTHAM TRUE VALUE

304 S. Reese - Elba

Need a new home **NOW?**
See us!

ALL HOMES AVAILABLE TO AREA FLOOD VICTIMS

**10%
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**You can do business
at any of our branches**

We suggest that our Elba customers use
our Enterprise branch, because members
of our Elba staff are working there to
help us accommodate you

Our Enterprise branch will be open
until 4 on Thursday afternoon
to assist Elba customers

Meanwhile, we are working
to open a temporary office
in the parking lot of our Elba location
to provide you with local service

Southtrust Bank

347-7700 • 393-3388

Socials and Community News

Crowe-Killingsworth engagement announced

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Douglas Crowe of Elba announce the engagement of their daughter, Leah Anne Crowe, to Todd Judson Killingsworth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rex David Killingsworth of Jack.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mrs. Anne Laurie Wright and the late Mr. Aubrey Lee Wright of Elba, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Constance Crowe of Cartersville, Ga.

Leah is a 1993 graduate of Elba High School and a 1997 graduate of Auburn University, where she received a Bachelor's degree in Science degree in Family and Child Development.

She is also a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and Alpha Gamma Delta social sorority.

The future bridegroom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Edd Fillmore of the New Hope Community, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Coley Washington Killingsworth of Jack.

Todd is a 1991 graduate of Elba High School and a 1995 graduate of Troy State University, where he received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Sports Medicine.

He is employed as a certified athletic trainer in Dothan.

The wedding is planned for April 18, 1998, at five o'clock in the afternoon at First Baptist Church of Elba. Reception to follow at Aunt B's Bed and Breakfast.

All family and friends are invited to attend.

WORSHIP AT THE
CHURCH OF YOUR
CHOICE
THIS SUNDAY!!!!

Weather
it rains
or it pours
we've got you
covered

SEE US
FOR YOUR
FLOOD
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IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE
WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN
HOLY AND TRUTH - WELB
6:58 AM - 12:00 PM - Sun.
Rev. James Rodgers

Non Devotion WELB
Sundays from Friday
12:05 - 12:20 PM - Bill Beck

ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet. - 7:00 p.m.

BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH -
Hilton Harrington
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet. - 7:00 p.m.

BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST -
Elbert Smith
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet. - 7:00 p.m.

BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH
Robert Davis
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service - 6:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
R. H. Hill
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays
Sundays School - 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet. - 7:00 p.m.

ELBA BAPTIST CHURCH
J. L. Graver
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet. - 7:00 p.m.

FAITH CHAPEL COMMUNITY
Church
Denny Sherrer
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Prayer Service - 7:00 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST -
Randy Neal, MINISTER
Sundays School - 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD
CHURCH OF GOD
Lamar Dean
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Serv. - 7:00 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF GOD
OF PROPHECY - J. E. Wesley
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Sundays Altar - 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.

ELBA DELIVERANCE TABER-
NACLE - Allan Richards
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.

ELBA FIRST ASSEMBLY OF
GOD - Billy J. Ruff
Sundays School - 9:30 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.

GREATER NEW ZION BAPTIST
CHURCH - Willie L. Peterson
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.

ELBA UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH - Marvin Ennis
Sundays School - 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.

ELBA BAPTIST CHURCH
Barnard Strickland
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
R. H. Hill
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
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Wed. Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD
CHURCH OF GOD
Lamar Dean
Sundays School - 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Serv. - 7:00 p.m.

Meadows-Baker announce wedding plans

Danielle Elizabeth Meadows and David Stuart Baker announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage.

Miss Meadows is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Danny O. Meadows of Birmingham.

Mr. Baker is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Noel Carlton Baker Jr. of Birmingham.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cletus A. Ford of Birmingham, and Mr. Herschel Meadows and the late Mrs. Mary Ruth Travis Meadows of Birmingham.

She is a 1992 graduate of The University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications, and is employed as Marketing Director of a Dothan firm.

The groom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Williams of Pleasant Hill, La., and Rev. Noel C. Baker and the late Mrs. Sybil Pynes Baker of Austin, Texas.

He attended Auburn University and is a 1988 graduate of The University of Alabama in Birmingham with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. He received his Juris Doctorate from the Cumberland School of Law in 1991, and is employed with an Opp firm.

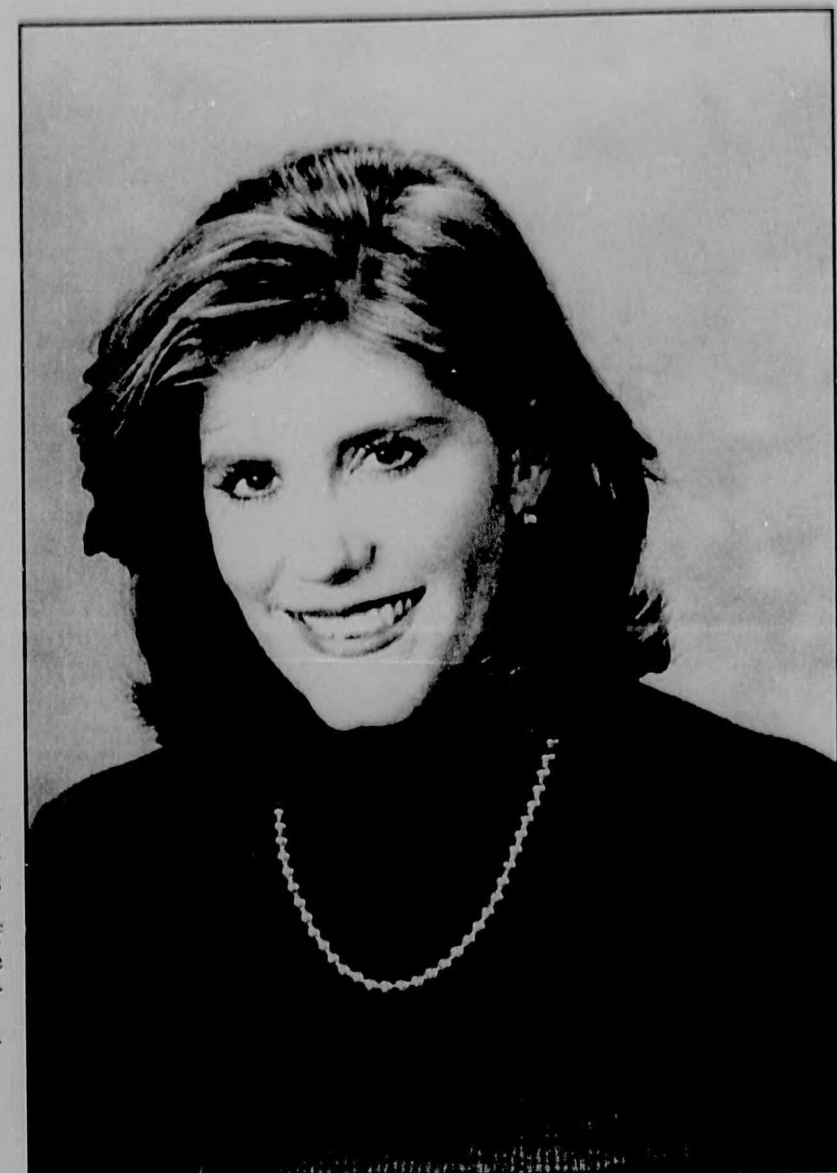
The wedding will be an event of June 13, 1998, at six o'clock in the evening at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Birmingham.

All friends and relatives are invited to attend.

Mrs. Jeffcoat to be honored

Mrs. Grace Carley Jeffcoat will be honored at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church on Sunday, March 15, for her many years of faithful service to the church and the community.

The public is invited to these services.



Miss Meadows



VALIEE LASHAY MOORE, an Elba High School student, recently was selected as new Teen Miss Wiregrass for 1997-98, from a field of 16 contestants in the Wiregrass area. Valerie is the 15-year-old daughter of Rachel and Valerie Moore of Elba. During their reign, the Wiregrass pageant guests are involved in projects such as Salvation Army, Project Noel and House of Ruth.

Small ads work ...
You're reading
this one

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FREE MONTHLY
INCLUDES
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On site laundry facilities
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Office Open
Mon. - Fri.
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Church Directory

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD - Kinston - Danny Bradshaw Sundays School - 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA DELIVERANCE TABER- NACLE - Allan Richards Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD - Billy J. Ruff Sundays School - 9:30 a.m. Morn. Worship - 10:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.	GREATER NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH - Willie L. Peterson Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Marvin Ennis Sundays School - 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship - 10:30 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA BAPTIST CHURCH - Barnard Strickland Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m.	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST R. H. Hill Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays Sundays School - 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet. - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA BAPTIST CHURCH J. L. Graver Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet. - 7:00 p.m.	FAITH CHAPEL COMMUNITY Church Denny Sherrer Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Wed. Prayer Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST - Randy Neal, MINISTER Sundays School - 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.	THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD CHURCH OF GOD Lamar Dean Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Evening Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Serv. - 7:00 p.m.
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NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH J. C. Turner Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Serv. - 7:00 p.m.	WOODLAND GROVE BAPTIST Seaborn Wooten Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet. - 7:00 p.m.	WOOTEN CHAPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD Charles M. Wooten Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet. - 7:00 p.m.	ZION CHAPEL BAPTIST Charles M. Wooten Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet. - 7:00 p.m.	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST R. H. Hill Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays Sundays School - 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet. - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA BAPTIST CHURCH J. L. Graver Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet. - 7:00 p.m.	FAITH CHAPEL COMMUNITY Church Denny Sherrer Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Wed. Prayer Service - 7:00 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST - Randy Neal, MINISTER Sundays School - 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Even. Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.	THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD CHURCH OF GOD Lamar Dean Sundays School - 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship - 11:00 a.m. Evening Service - 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Serv. - 7:00 p.m.
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These church listings are sponsored by:
Whitman Drug Co., Dorsey Trailers, SouthTrust Bank & The Elba Clipper

LEGAL NOTICES

Property taxes 1998
ENTERPRISE DIVISION
LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF ALABAMA
COFFEE COUNTY
REVENUE COMMISSIONER'S SALE

1. Ronnie L. Burns, Revenue Commissioner for Coffee County by virtue of a decree rendered by the Probate Judge, William D. Gammill, of said county on February 25, 1998 will proceed to sell to the highest bidder for cash, before the courthouse door of Enterprise, said county within the hours of legal sale on April 6, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. the following described real estate for taxes and cost thereon for the year 1997:

Publish March 4, 11, 18, 1998

ANDREWS BRIDAL SHOP INC.
16-05-16-3-304-060-000 SEC-16 TWSHP-
4N RNGE-22E A LOT IN SE1/4 OF SW1/4
DESC AS FOL BEG ON W MAR OF MAIN ST
TH INT WITH S/MAR OF COLLEGE AVE TH
SELY 23' TH SWLY 100' TH N 15' E 10' TH
100' TH TO POB WITH IMPS
TAX & COST: 309.31
PRINTER'S FEE: 42.41
TOTAL: 351.72

ANDREWS BRIDAL SHOP INC.
16-05-16-3-304-061-000 SEC-16 TWSHP-
4N RNGE-22E A LOT IN SE1/4 OF SW1/4
DESC AS FOL BEG ON W MAR OF MAIN ST
TH INT WITH S/MAR OF COLLEGE AVE TH
SELY 23' TH SWLY 100' TH N 15' E 10' TH
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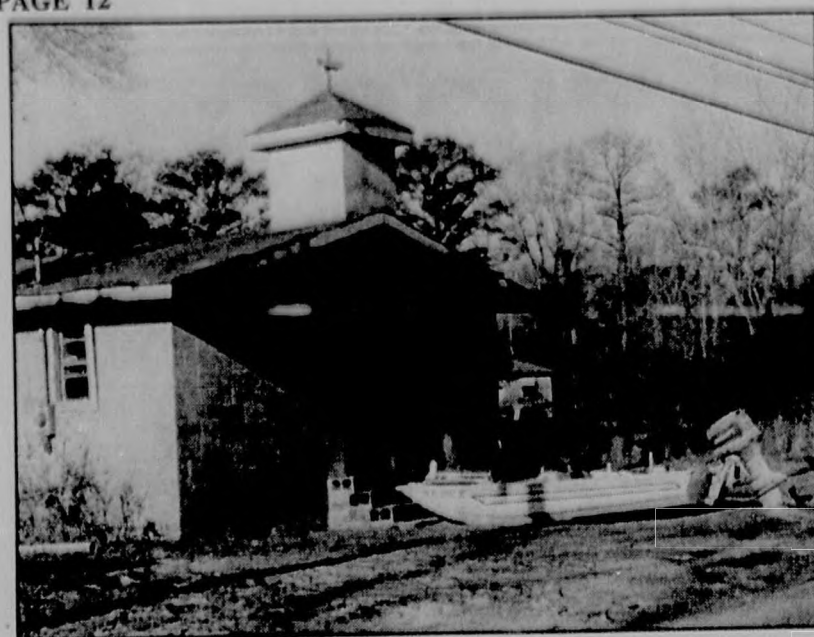
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This church on Martin Luther King drive proved to be a good place to park a boat Sunday



Flood waters didn't reach the downstairs windows of First Baptist Church



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Building supply stores re-open

Both Kenneth Grantham and Jackie Windham, owners of Grantham's True Value Hardware and Windham Lumber Company respectively, are open for business.

They will have building supplies available for those needing to begin repairing their homes and businesses.

Dorsey Trailers to re-open soon

One of Elba's largest businesses, Dorsey Trailers, is already working to reopen just as soon as possible.

According to Paul Morrow, a spokesperson for Dorsey, the damage to the Elba facility was not as great as in the March '90 flood.



The Elba Clipper office, Monday afternoon

Elba Clipper in temporary office on Claxton

Like most other downtown businesses, The Elba Clipper had several feet of water in it Sunday and Monday.

Very little was recovered from office building before the waters rose, but using borrowed computers, and a new operating system and printer delivered by Graphicom, the office has been set up in the old Army Reserve building on Claxton Avenue.

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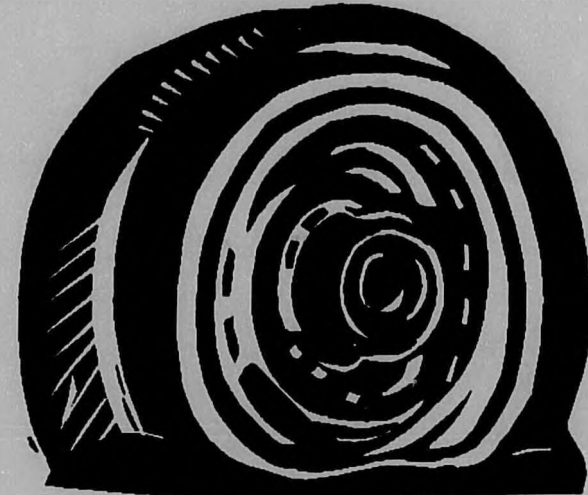
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Andalusia/Greenville
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(All Students)

Classes Begin March 24
LATE REGISTRATION
Drop/Add Period
March 24 - 26

Andalusia 222-6591/Greenville 382-2133 (ext. 3101)



LBW students seated left to right: Stacey Solomon, Opp; Kevin Allen, Zion Chapel; standing left to right: Alan Crenshaw, Opp; Darren Mooney, Andalusia; Juanita Cobb, Andalusia.

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Gorgeous White Eat-In Kitchen
\$79,500

NEW CONSTRUCTION
Wise's Mill - 1500 SF - 3 BR - 2 BA
Double Garage - Brick Vinyl Ext.
Gorgeous White Eat-In Kitchen
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4 BR - 2 1/2 BATH
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2,025 SF - 3 BR - 2 Baths
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3 BR, 2 Bath - Sun Room, Hardwood
Floors - Central H&C - All Appliances
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Executive Home - 2500+ Sq. Ft.
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INSIDE
Williamson family to perform

INSIDE
Tillis joins Kansas City Royals

INSIDE
Broken levee repaired

The Elba Clipper

Volume 101, Number 40

50 cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, March 19, 1998

1 Section, 18 Pages

No word on rumored buy-out plan

by Michele Cox Gerlach

While the state and national media have devoted much air time and space to the possibility of relocating Elba, local officials haven't received any concrete information about the process, Mayor James Grimes said Tuesday.

But federal and state Emergency Management Agency (EMA) officials say information about a potential buy-out will be included in a

long-term plan being prepared for Elba.

Scott Adecock, public information officer for the Alabama EMA said the options are being put on the table.

"FEMA and EMA are not at all telling the City of Elba you have to move," Adecock said. "The decision will be made at the local level."

"Another option to be considered is 'what can be done to strengthen

See BUY-OUT, Page 18

Bodies found, local authorities to question son

by Marvin McIlwain, editor

The bodies of two people missing since Saturday were found late Monday near Pages Creek just south of Elba on AL Hwy. 189.

The bodies of Russell William Cuts, Sr., 41, and wife Leighanne Manning Cuts, 35, were found late Monday afternoon in the creek located just north of the Perry's Store Community in southwest Coffee County.

Authorities had been investigating the suspicious nature of the couple's disappearance since Saturday, March 14, 1998.

Mr. Cuts, an employee of L&M Tire Co., and his wife, a dispatcher with the Enterprise Police Department, were last seen late

Friday evening shortly after 8 p.m. A massive ground and air search was conducted Saturday and Sunday with no success.

The couple's son (Mrs. Cuts' stepson), Russell William Cuts, Jr., 18, was missing, along with his father's pickup truck.

The younger Cuts was arrested Sunday evening in Sugarland, Texas, along with a companion, Jeremy Guthrie, 18, of Daleville, Ala. They are both being held on theft charges since the vehicle belonged to Mr. Cuts.

A crew from the Alabama Department of Transportation was inspecting the bridge for flood damage when they discovered a body.

See BODIES, Page 18

Friends, family mourn victims

by Michele Cox Gerlach

About 300 mourners packed the sanctuary of Harris Temple Church of God in Christ Saturday afternoon for the funeral held for the two victims of Elba's 1998 flood.

Standing in the aisles, seated in folding chairs set up in the sanctuary, and crowded in the foyer of the church, the people who gathered to mourn Edward Newiser Horstead, 17, and his niece, Margindale Kiemonne Thigpen, 4, fanned slowly with hand-held cardboard fans and dabbed at their eyes with tissues.

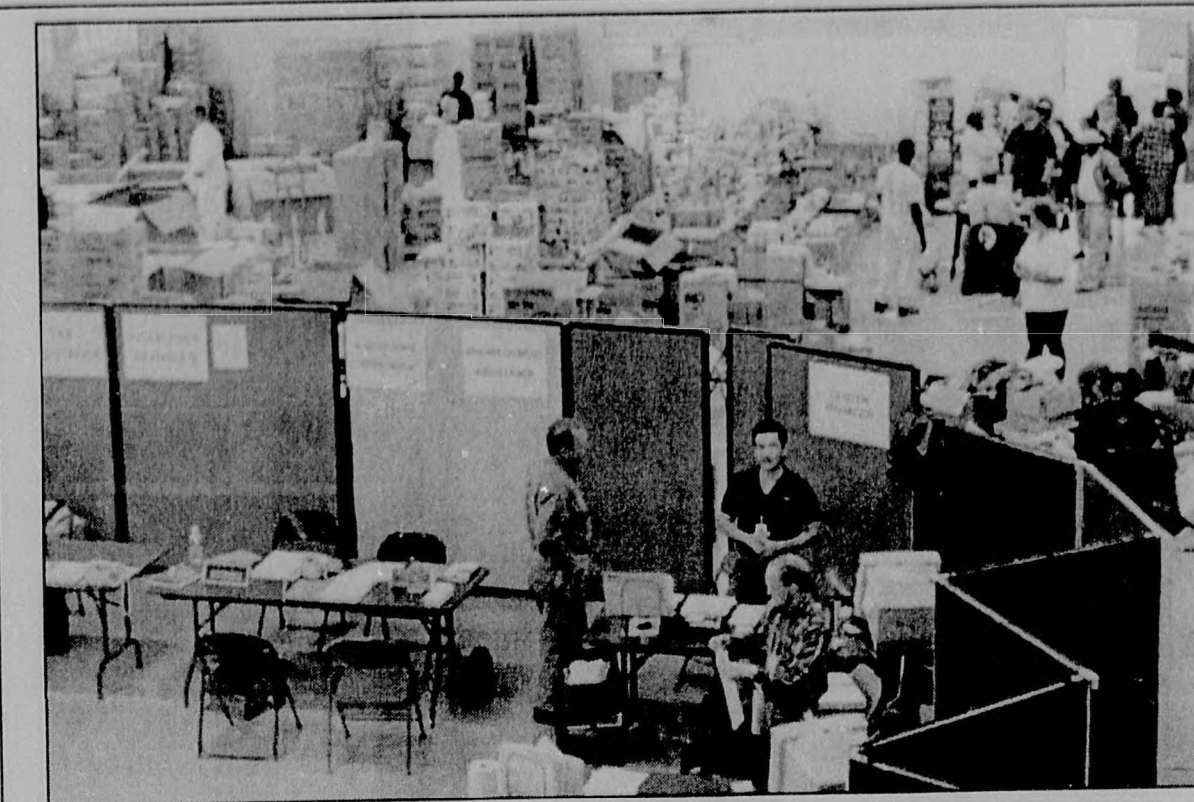
They were comforted by such songs as "Soon and very soon, I am going to see the King," and "His Eye is On The Sparrow."

And they were assured by Elder W. K. Ellison, who officiated, that



Pall bearers carry the tiny casket in which 4-year-old Margindale Kiemonne Thigpen was buried last Saturday. Thigpen and her uncle, Edward Horstead, drowned when the vehicle in which they were riding was swept off the road by flood waters

See FUNERAL, Page 18



The Elba Recreation Center located on Claxton Avenue has been transformed into a disaster relief center, with state and federal Emergency Management Agency offices, as well as volunteer organization, set up in the gymnasium. The building also is temporarily housing City Hall and The Elba Clipper

First disaster relief checks distributed in Coffee County

by Michele Cox Gerlach

Flood victims who received the first disaster relief checks issued by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Assistance Program said they felt tremendous relief in knowing help was on the way.

The first of \$257,000 in disaster loan checks already issued in Coffee County by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Disaster Assistance Program were delivered to Elba Monday morning.

"This helped," said Mary Jo Nolin. "We were pulling our hair out, not knowing what would happen next."

"We need positive things," Mrs. Nolin said. "It was a blessing to have somebody say, 'We can help you and we will do that.' That

As of Tuesday morning, FEMA had received 705 requests for assistance from Coffee County residents.

In the first four days of operations in the old Armory National Guard building on Claxton Avenue, employees of the disaster relief services interviewed 330 applicants.

Tuesday, 168 disaster relief checks totalling \$257,000 had been issued.

"I started to get up some clothes so that we could get out," she said. "Within 10 minutes the water was at our door steps."

Flood waters were only two inches away from the carpet of the Nolins' mobile home. But erosion caused by flooding has literally washed away the earth on which the mobile home stands.

"The dirt washed away from under the blocks," Mrs. Nolin said. "And our home is showing signs of pulling apart."

Ashley and Daisy Sutley also received one of the first SBA

She turned on the television and immediately began to see flood warnings. She woke her husband, who went outside to evaluate the couple's situation, and told his wife they should evacuate.

"I started to get up some clothes so that we could get out," she said. "Within 10 minutes the water was at our door steps."

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See CHECKS, Page 18

School schedules altered, AEA holidays still on go

by Michele Cox Gerlach

For students in Elba City Schools, there is good news and bad news.

The good news is that students will be out for spring holidays, also known as A.E.A. holidays, March 30 through April 3.

The bad news is that students will have to make up four of the five days they were out of school last week because of flooding.

The school calendar already included one day more than was required by

state law.

To make up the four days, students will go to school on Good Friday, April 10. School also will be extended three days at the end of the year, with the last day of school for faculty and staff set on Friday, May 22.

Graduation for Elba High School seniors will remain on Tuesday, May 19th.

The current grading period has been extended for one week and will end on Friday, April 10th.

State testing

Students also will follow the same April testing dates already set, said Judy Killingsworth, principal of Elba Elementary School.

"That's a big burden and we're really concerned," Mrs. Killingsworth said. "This week and next week we're going to do some reviewing. We hope people will understand."

On Monday, the first day Elba students were back in school, ele-

See SCHOOLS, Page 18

News Briefs

National Security production still on

The Elba High School auditorium will be the setting for a special evening of musical entertainment on Friday, March 20, when Stage Centre Company of Tuscaloosa will present "I Do! I Do!," a two-character play which tells the story of a couple as they move from newlyweds in 1898 to an old married couple in 1948. A musical version of the play, "The Fourposter," by Jan

De Hartzog, "I Do! I Do!" opened on Broadway in 1946 starring Mary Martin and Robert Preston.

Prior to the play, the Rainer Twins, concert piano duettists from Opp, will perform, as will Elba High's Jazz Band, under the direction of Jeff Ellis.

Admission is free and the program will begin at 6:45 p.m.

For more information call 897-2273, Ext. 204, within Coffee County, or 1-800-239-2358, Ext. 204.

Monday City Council meeting moved

The Elba City Council will meet Monday evening at 6 p.m. in the Elba City School Superintendent's office. If there is an overflow crowd, Mayor James Grimes said the meeting will be moved to the high school cafeteria.

The Water & Electric Board will meet immediately after the council meeting.